

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-8-141

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Spring Plains Mill Property

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 10302 Coppermine Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Woodsboro ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John and Rebecca Spicer

street & number 10302 Coppermine Road telephone no.: 301-898-1640

city, town Woodsboro state and zip code Maryland 21798

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse Liber 802

street & number West Patrick Street Folio 17

city, town Frederick state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition

☒ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This property consists of a two story brick house with a frame extension to the rear, a summer kitchen with attached shed, a frame stable, concrete block dairy barn, and a metal barn of recent vintage. The buildings are located on the north side of Coppermine Road, just east of Israel Creek and about one half mile east of Woodsboro in Frederick County. The 10-acre parcel also includes the site of a flour mill, a complex which also at various times included a clover mill and a chopping mill as well. The mill site was located west of the present buildings, between them and the creek. Remnants of the mill race are still visible, although no above-ground evidence can be seen of the mill. The setting of the property is currently farmland, adjacent to Woodsboro. A bypass is being constructed just west of the property and residential growth from Woodsboro is expanding toward the property.

The brick house is a two story, four bay building with two center front doors. The walls are laid in common bond at all elevations. First story windows have nine over six light sash within moderately wide frames, while upper level windows have six over six light sash. Chimneys are located inside the gable ends. There are two side-by-side central front entrances each with a six panel door and a four light transom. Both doors retain their original German cast iron elbow box locks.

The extension to the rear is of frame construction with nine over six windows at the first floor and six over six above. This section includes a large kitchen fireplace, and currently serves as a kitchen. It originally had two rooms, but the partition dividing this section has been removed. A double porch extends along the west wall of the wing. The first story level of the porch has been extended to the west and enclosed by the present owner. The second story level retains its original configuration.

The entire building is roofed with standing seam sheet metal.

The brick section is Germanic in its exterior plan. The interior is one room deep, with only two rooms on the first floor, each with its own front door. Woodwork features indicate influence of the late Federal Neoclassical period. The east room has a fireplace with an original four-panel enclosure board. The mantel has molded pilaster strips supporting the mantel shelf. A recessed cupboard was located to its north. This room also contains an enclosed stairway to the second story, located at the northwest corner of the room. The second room, on the west side is more formal and presumably always served as a parlor. In this room the mantelpiece has deep, delicate moldings and a broad oval panel. There is a molded architrave with decorated corner blocks around the firebox. Similar molded architraves trim the doors. Both first floor rooms originally had chair rail as evidenced by marks in the plaster. The chair rail matched the pattern of the window sills and skirt beneath. Original chair rail does remain on the second floor.

Beneath the brick section is a full basement which includes a spring in the southwest corner. The foundation wall is inset from the wall of the house by one brick width around the whole perimeter. This may indicate that the cellar is actually a remnant of an earlier structure, especially since basement springs are atypical of 19th century Frederick County houses.

Immediately behind the house is a frame summer kitchen with a fireplace. A frame shed has been attached to its west end. Further to the north is a frame horse barn with a gable roof and vertical

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siding. East of it is a 1920s-30s dairy barn made of rusticated "patent stone," with a rounded roof. Attached to the barn is a tile silo. South of the dairy barn is a modern metal barn.

Other features on the property are remains of the mill race which extends northward along the west edge of the property, and a boundary marker stone located in the front yard and marked BR + JG, 1782. This stone was moved from its original location to a point on the south side of Coppermine Road some years ago, and has been returned to the north side of the road and planted near what is believed to have been its original location.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance (Check and justify below)			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other(specify)

Specific dates	ca. 1830	Builder/Architect	unknown
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check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This farmstead and mill property represents the importance of grain milling to the agriculture of Frederick County. This parcel throughout its history has been associated with a mill which once stood near the point where Coppermine Road crosses Israel Creek. It was one of several mills in the vicinity. The house reflects both Germanic building traditions in its window and door placement pattern and 1820s-30s Federal design features as well. The mill operated at this site earlier suggesting that this house may be the second generation dwelling on the property. The rusticated patent stone dairy barn of the ca. 1920s-30s illustrates the shift from grain farming and milling as the prime agricultural pursuit to dairy farming, a change that occurred in the first quarter of the 20th century. The frame horse stable is mentioned as one of the improvements on the property in an 1871 trustee's sale. It probably dates from the mid 19th century.

Historic Context

Frederick County and central Maryland in general were settled during the second half of the 18th century although there were habitations in the region as early as the 1730s. Although land was initially held by English entrepreneurs from eastern Maryland, the majority of settlers who actually lived in Frederick County were Germans who had migrated south from Pennsylvania. The area developed into a prime agricultural region with emphasis on the production of small grains. With grain farming dominating, related industries and transportation networks soon developed. Grist and flour milling was prevalent, as was distilling. Central Maryland along with south central Pennsylvania grew in importance as an agricultural region. In Maryland, Frederick and adjoining Washington County led the state in wheat and corn production throughout most of the 19th century. The allure of the agricultural prosperity of central Maryland influenced Robert E. Lee's plan to invade Maryland in the late summer of 1862. The greater region was the nation's bread basket until large scale grain production in the Midwest overtook local production in the later 19th century.

Resource History

This property throughout its history included a mill parcel and an adjoining farm. The subject property is the mill parcel. The mill is shown on this property on the 1873 Titus Atlas of Frederick County, the 1858 Isaac Bond Map of Frederick County and the Charles Varlé 1808 Map of Frederick and Washington Counties.

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The earliest reference for the property found thus far is for one acre, part of a tract of land called "Spring Plain" dated July 29, 1782 from William Renner to John Graybill and William Renner. (This transaction in Deed Book WRB, page 171, may relate to the existing boundary stone marked BR + JG, 1782. The discrepancy between William Renner's initials and the "BR" on the stone has no explanation at this time. It is unlikely that the informal "Bill," if it was a nickname in the 18th century, would have been used in a boundary marker such as this.) At some point, the property became that of Jacob and Mary Snyder who in 1835 granted to Ezra Cramer the "right to cut and dig a new tail race for the purpose to take in all the fall that may be found and to convey the tail water freely from the wheel or wheels of the clover and chopping [sic] mills now occupied by John Carr and purchased by Ezra Cramer." (Liber IS49, folio 99.)

In April, 1869, Jacob Beard and Mary A. Beard of Philadelphia conveyed the mill property, "Spring Plains," to Jacob Feiser for \$6900 (Liber CM3, folio 271). As a result of an equity court proceeding, the property was sold at a trustees sale to Milton Ruby in June, 1873 for \$5502.15 (Liber CM10, folio 138). According to equity court records (Liber CM4, page 126), the mill property was described as follows for a trustees sale, August 5, 1871: 8¼ acres, ½ mile east of Woodsboro with a new stone and frame flouring mill in complete order, a two-story brick dwelling house with back building, a summer kitchen, smoke house, stabling for horses and cows and a new hog house.

In April of 1905 Milton Ruby and his wife, of York, PA, sold the mill property to Emma G. Smith for \$2000 (Liber 269, folio 469). Two years later, Emma G. Smith, unmarried, sold the property to Parma Lee Feiser and wife for \$1925 (Liber 278, folio 549). Apparently the mill had ceased operation because when Parma Lee and Florence L. Feiser sold the mill property in April of 1909 to Elmer M. Powell, the transaction included water rights and the right to *rebuild* and maintain the dam. This deed also references the boundary stone marked BR + JG (Liber 395, folio 590). In April 1934, Elmer M. and Nettie G. Powell sold the 8¼ acre mill property, along with two other parcels totalling approximately 52 acres to W. Sherman and Hilda E. Powell (Liber 455, folio 592). They in turn sold the property to Guy R. and Margaret T. Creager in December 1956 (Liber 575, folio 270). The current owners purchased the property in April, 1969 (Liber 802, folio 17).

Interestingly the three historic maps showing the property do not necessarily reflect the ownership as shown in the deeds. This is because the maps may be recording operators of the mill, not necessarily property owners. The 1808 Charles Varlé map shows Joseph Browning at this site. The 1858 Isaac Bond Map shows E. Smith at this site although J. Beard was shown as across Coppermine Road. According to land records, Jacob Beard may have owned the property at this time. The mill is listed as a grist and saw mill. In the 1873 Titus Atlas Map, the property is identified as S. Ruby's, although Milton Ruby was the owner of record.

Resource Analysis

The brick house on this property would appear to date from the 1820s or 1830s which would put it in ownership of the Snyders or an immediately previous owner. The mill itself goes back at least to 1808 and probably earlier. The mill ceased to operate probably some time in the early 20th century which was typical of many flour mills in Maryland, Pennsylvania and the Valley of Virginia.

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It was during this period that the agricultural focus shifted to dairy. This shift is seen in the rusticated block dairy barn on this property.

The house illustrates Germanic building traditions in the use of the window, door, door, window facade arrangement, combined with a late use of Federal, Neoclassical design motifs with the oval panel in the fireplace, delicate symmetrically molded architraves and use of chair rail.

The marked 1782 boundary stone is a significant record of the early history of the property from the time that the large Monocacy Manor was confiscated from Tory Daniel Dulany and sold in 1780 and '81. Further research may indicate whether William Renner and John Graybill were responsible for the marker stone, and who owned the property prior to 1835.

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HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont (Frederick County)

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification 1680-1815 A.D.

Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Agriculture

Architectural/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Domestic/single dwelling

Agricultural/Subsistence/animal facility

Known Design Source: Vernacular

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10. Geographical Data

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Year	Number of Cases (Millions)
1990	1.0
1991	1.5
1992	2.0
1993	2.0
1994	2.0
1995	1.5
1996	1.0
1997	1.0
1998	2.5
1999	2.5

Boundary is as shown on the attached plat map.

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paula S. Reed, PhD		
organization	Preservation Associates, Inc.	date	6/4/96
street & number	19942 Lehmans Mill Road	telephone	301-791-7880
city or town	Hagerstown	state	Maryland 21742

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
People's Resource Center
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7000

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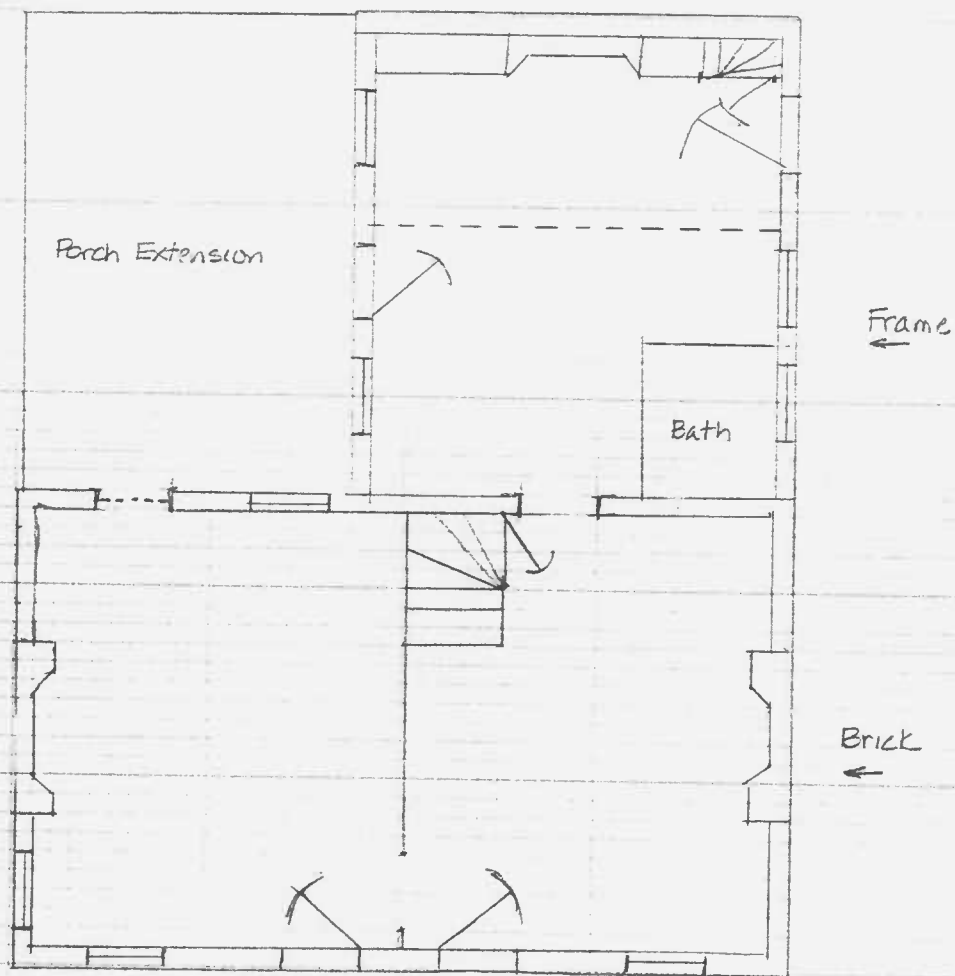
Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.

Frederick County Land Records, compiled by Janet Davis and Rebecca Spicer.

Scharf, Thomas J., History of Western Maryland, 1888.

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

Varlé, Charles. Map of Frederick and Washington Counties, 1808.



SPRING PLAIN MILL PROPERTY

10302 Copper Mine Rd
Woodstoro, MD

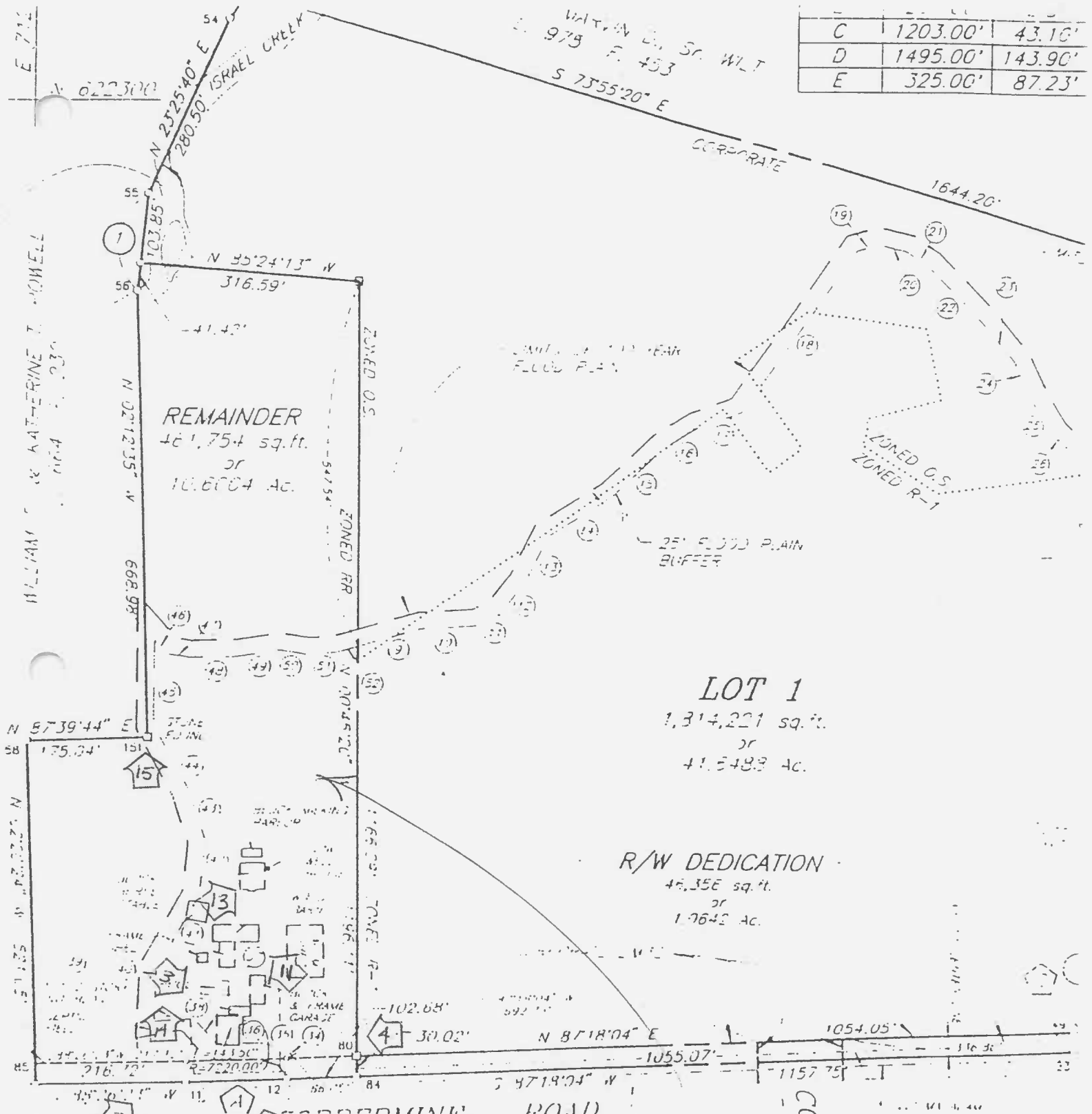
Frederick Co. MD



F-8-141

Not to scale
Approximate First Floor Plan

C	1203.00'	43.16'
D	1495.00'	143.90'
E	325.00'	87.23'



10302 Coppermine Road
 Woodsboro, MD
 • Spring Plain Mill Property

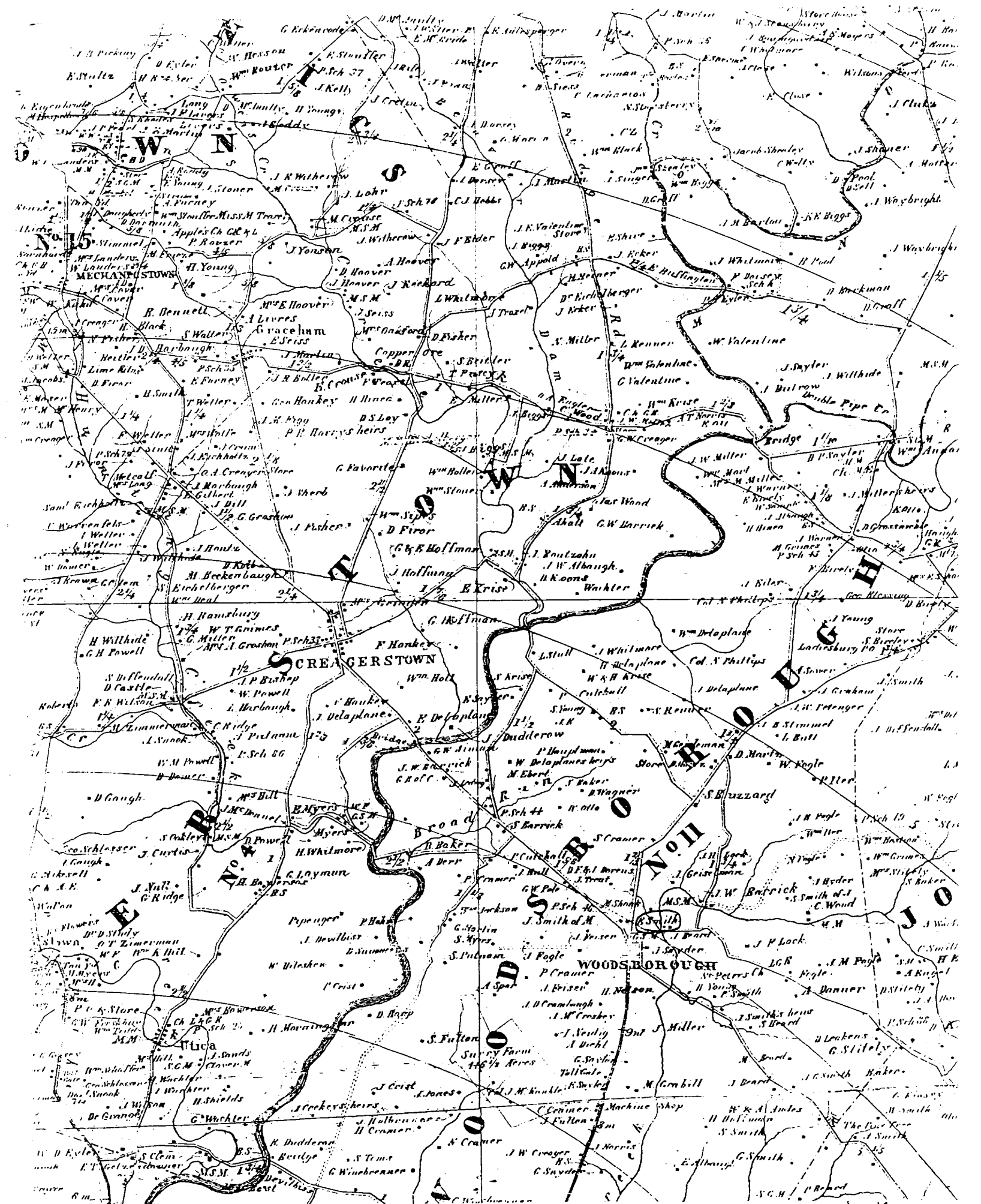
↑
 Exterior Photo
 View and number

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Charles Vane
1803 Map of
Washington and Frederick Co. MD

F-8-141

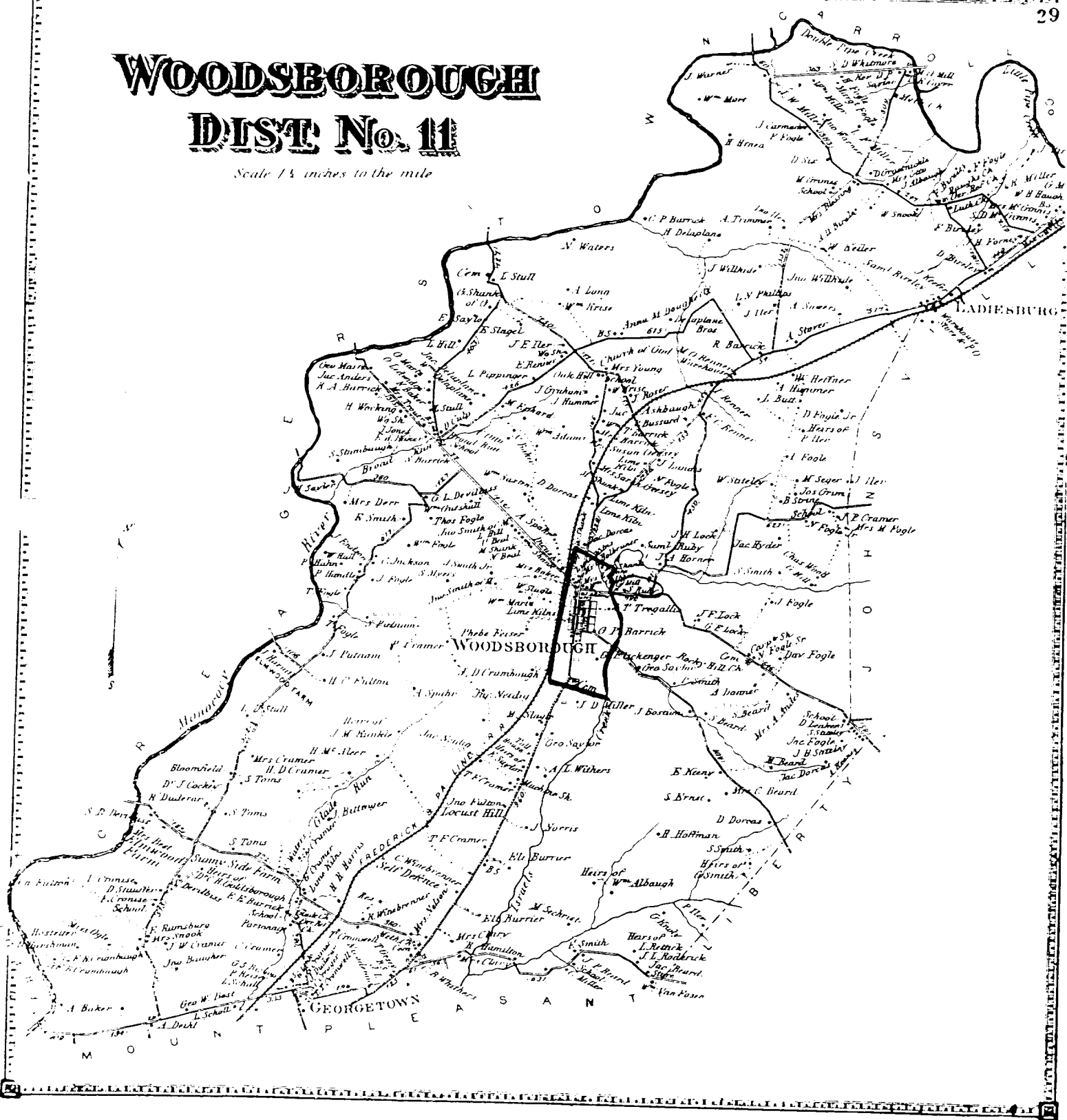


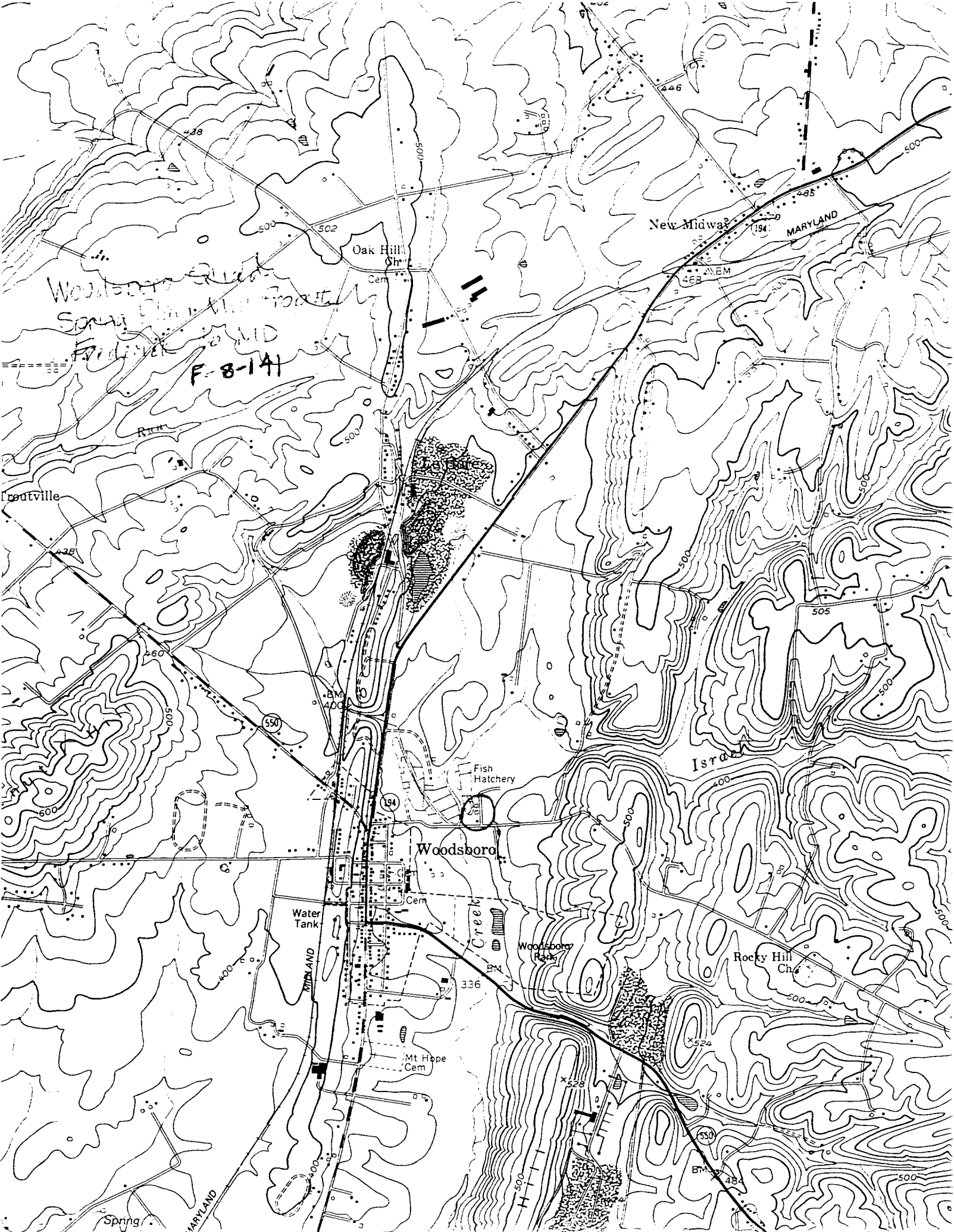


WOODSBOROUGH

DIST No. 11

Scale 1/4 inches to the mile







F-8-141

Spring Plains Mills Property
Woodsboro Vic., Frederick Co.
Photo by P. Reed
5/96

House, SW view

#1



F-8-141

Spring Plains Mills Property

Woodboro vic., Frederick Co.

photo by P. Reed

5/96

House NW view

#2



F-8-141

Spring Plains Nue Property
Woodboro Vic., Frederick Co.
photo by P. Reed

5/96

House, SE view

#3



F-8-141

Spring Plains Mill Property
Woodsboro Vic. Frederick Co.
photo by P. Reed
5796
House, W. view
#4

167530-116-114-22



F-8-141

Spring Plain Mills Property
Woodstock, Va., Frederick Co.
photo by P. Reed

5/96

211-901-1100 Box 1512

Interior, east room, brick section

#5



F-8-141

Spring Plain Mills Property
Woodsboro vic. Frederick Co.
Photo by P. Reed

5/96

Interior, east room, front door
#6



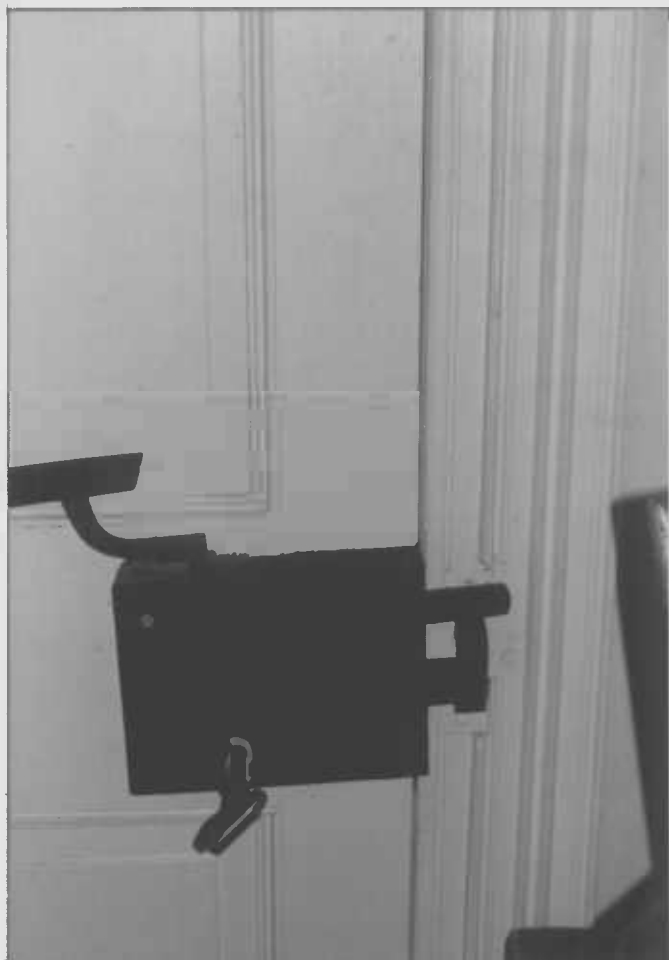
F-8-141

Spring Plain Mills Property
Woodstock vic. Frederick Co.
photo by P. Reed

5/96

104650-41. 8-14-72

Interior, west room, brick section
#7



F-8-141

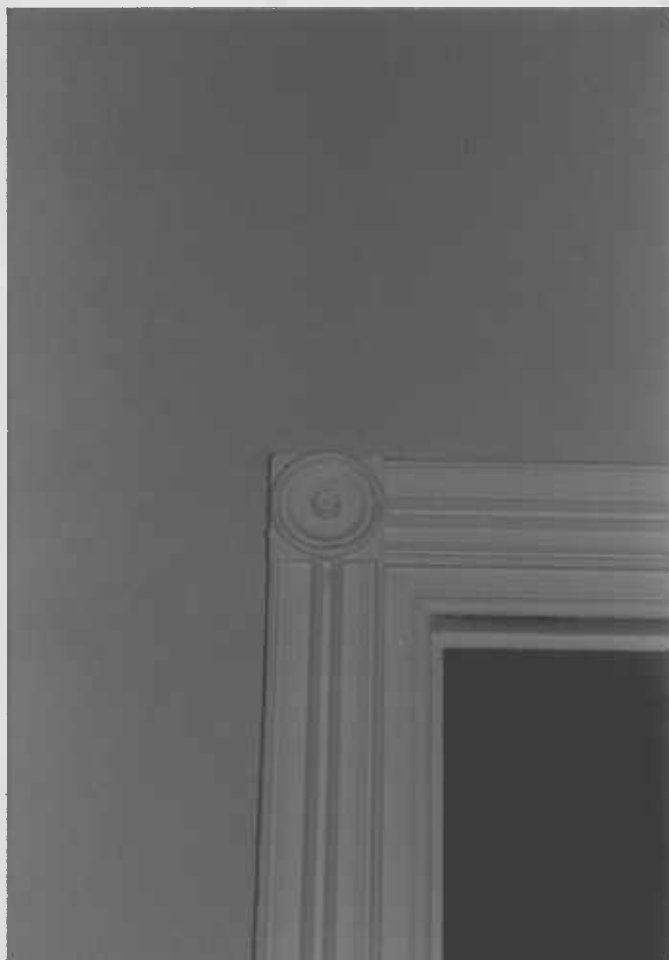
Spring Plain Mills Property
Woodsboro Vic. Frederick Co.

photo by P. Reed

5/96

Interior, west room front
door hardware

#8



F-8-141

Spring Plain Mills Property
Woodboro Vt, Frederick Co.
photo by P. Reed

5/96

Interior, west room door
architrave

#9



OPEN

THE
BUCKBOARD, LTD

F-8-141

Spring Plain Mill Property
Woodsboro Vic, Frederick Co.

photo by P. Reed

5/96

Interior, Summer Kitchen

#10



F-8-141

Spring Plains Mill Property
Woodsboro VIC., Frederick Co.
photo by P. Reed

5796

Horse stable, NW view

11



F-8-141

Spring Plam Mill Property
Woodsboro vic, Frederick Co. MD
Photo by R Reed

5/96

Interior, horse stable, ladder
#12



F 8-141

Spring Plain Mill Property

Woodsboro Vic., Frederick Co., MD

photo by P. Reed

5/96

dairy barn

NE view

#13



F-8-141

Spring Plain Mill Property

Woodsboro Vicinity, Frederick Co.

photo by P. Reed

5/96

mill site, NW view

#14



F-8-141

Spring - Plaine Mill Property
Woodsboro Vic, Frederick Co.

photo by P. Reed

5/96

mill race remnant

N. view

#15

OPEN

THE
BUCKBOARD, LTD.



F-8-141

Spring Plain Mill Property
Woodsboro vic., Frederick Co.

photo by P. Reed

5/96

Interior, summer kitchen

#16